Dispatch.

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circulation of any other in the State outside of Philadelphia, its advantages as an advertising medium will be apparent.

TERMS OF THE DISPATCH.

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THE VALUE OF A BACKBONE.

It is important, in view of the dispute concerning Samoa, to note that although Lord Salisbury has been lulled into quiescence by the Bismarckian music, even the most extreme Tory press is outspoken in supporting the objections of this Government to the German course at Samon Beside the significant language of the Standard yesterday, it is noteworthy that early in the dispute the London Globe declared that "the time is not opportune for Germany to take up an over-bearing attitude on a question which, small as it looks, might easily bring her into collision with the United States." The prediction was made that Bismarck would forward conciliatory explanations, which would "hardly be satistactory to the President unless accompanied by a cessation of annexationist maneuvers."

The English view has been fully corroborated by the communication received from Prince Bismarck vesterday. The last steps of the German officers at Samoa, which amounted to practical annexation, are disavowed, and it is stated that their orders are revoked. This may be regarded as sufficient evidence that the German Chancellor does not care to embroil himself with the United States and give his enemies in Europe a chance to take advantage of it. But it may be questioned whether the revocation of orders will be of much value if the fruits of the former German interference in the islands are retained. Let Prince Bismarck restore affairs to the position in which they were before his interference and it will be easy to arrange matters for the future-if Germany is willing to adhere to her professions of disinterestedness.

It is certainly evident that there is no necessity of observing a pusillanimous diplomacy. The moment we show ourselves possessed of a backbone-even if it is not in our State Department-Germany begins to adopt a much more moderate tone.

NOT THE SPECIFIC.

The views of the gentleman who wishes the State to locate its capital at the geographical center, to go into a town lot speculation for the money to build the new buildings and to make the railroads build lines up through the central counties to reach the new capital, have the merit of sincerity. No one could propound such a scheme, if he did not honestly believe in it, and so it will be just to pass over the reasoning processes which develop this plan as mercifully as possible. It can hardly fail to be noticed, however, that there is a wide uncertainty as to cause and effect in the opinion of the projector that the diffusion of industries throughout the rural sections is somehow mixed up in the matter. There are very distinct causes which are crowding our cities to the injury of the country at large, but when they are studied with any care, it will be seen that the evil is not to be cured by moving State capitels around.

THE INCUBUS OF BOYALTY.

The tragic ending of the Crown Prince Rudolf, of Germany, which it is now made clear was a case of suicide, adds another dark chapter to the personal history of royalty in Europe. Whether it was the result of mental aberration, or, as some of the reports say, an accepted alternative to fighting a duel because of unprincely misconduct, the affair is sensational enough to continue long the subject of speculation and of gossip among that large portion of the Old-World people whose main use for princes is to be to imitate the fashions which they set | to be material for the Anglo-Saxon mind to and to discuss their frailties.

At a time when the chief republic of Europe is threatened with the danger of dissolution by the popularity of a military adventurer whose operations, it is feared, will in the end establish dynastic rule, the occurrences in the monarchies are such as will in public esteem. The vagaries of the royal family of Russia, the domestic distion in Austria diminish sadly the luster of the imperial purple. The war taxes, and the prospects of slaughter and devastation ahead which are kept constantly overhanging the political horizon, make the background of the dismal picture of the Governments which foist themselves on the hardworking millions of Europeans.

A WEST POINT RACE CONFLICT.

The latest phase of the race conflict comes from West Point. It broke out in the form of a bruising match between two aristocratic youths from the South. The cause of the pugilism was that a high-toned cadet from Virginia, acting as Captain, had placed a colored cadet at table with another hightoned cadet from Maryland. The Marylander challenged the Virginian for this "insult," and they punched each other's heads, let us hope, until their honor was fully satisfied. This, it is interesting to observe, is regarded by a more than unusually enlightened Southern journal, the Baltitimore Sun, as all due to the fact that a thoughtless and reprehensible Ohio Congressman appointed a colored cadet. If it is not to be understood that the fault lies with those who omitted to use the rod liberally on these aristocratic pugilists when they were children, it might as well be attributed to the reckless forefathers who established such an institution as West Point, open to appointments from all classes, as well as all parts of the country.

SHARESPEARE IN CHINESE.

China progresses sideways, and her civilionstration of Celestial intelligence is the order of the Dowager Empress of China that ness had caused her son to be taught the Chevreul and as he would get drunk on not dipl

English language, but still the study of the great Sage and Bard of Avon, even through the lattice work of Chinese characters, cannot but be of advantage to that exalted

youth. The Chinese Prince is liable to learn an unusual amount about human nature in the wonderful plays, and if he studies them with a loving eye his subjects will observe gratefully the reflection of his enlightenment when the reins of government shall fall into his hands.

We notice that our esteemed cotemporary, the New York Sun, thinks that it would be an edifying sight if the Prince were to order the production of some Shakespearean dramas upon the Pekin stage. It might be edifying to us, but Shakespeare would be subject to the violent attacks or contempt uous sneers of the Chinese critics. The standard of dramatic excellence in China is very different from ours. A play to be good in China must be long, and the longer it is the better it is. 'The best comedies and tragedies on the celestial stage to-day take from six to thirty days in performance. "Hamlet" or "Macbeth" would be regarded as little trifles fit only to usher in some serious work. In comparison with the enthralling Chinese melodrama "Tan Kee Wun Lun," which takes a calendar month to unwind itself, a play like "Much Ado About Nothing," or "Romeo and Juliet," requiring but one evening to perform, would naturally seem absurdly small. In fact the Chinese dramatic critics would probable devote but a line or two in the theatrical notes to a Shakespearean play.

THE COKE DISPUTE. The coke industry seems to have got back to the striking stage once more. The news from the Connellsville district is to the effect that the men at several works went out yesterday, while the determination is announced on the part of all the workers to go out, if a scale equal to that paid by the Frick Company is not conceded. On the other hand the operators declare that they cannot pay the Frick scale and will not, if they have to let their works stand idle all

We have no intention of trying to adjudicate between such antagonistic views; but it can hardly escape comment that some of the arguments by which the operators support their position are of the remarkable character that have heretofore appeared in connection with that trade. The statement that Mr. Frick can afford to run his coke ovens without any margin of profit, because he is interested in the steel industry, implies that he would make up the loss of operating the coke business for no reward, by the profits of the steel trade, or rather the Bessemer pig business. But in that case the Besomer pig business outside of Mr. Frick's establishment, can afford to pay prices fo coke which will yield a profit, and will do so rather than let its furnaces blow out. When this is coupled with the assertion that the coke men are turning over all the money they get to their employes, at a rate of wages 61/2 per cent less than the Frick scale, that implies that Mr. Frick must be suffering a loss of 61/2 per cent of all the money he pays for wages-which puts that gentleman in the new and hitherto unsuspected character of a wholesale philanthropist.

Indeed, that character seems to diffuse itself rather widely among the coke interest, if we are to take all that has been said concerning this industry, as ex cathedra. Last year we were told that they were losing something like 25 or 30 cents a ton on all their shipments, which were kept up at a large volume; and now we are informed that they are doing business for nothing. The public can hardly be blamed for a little incredulity as to the assertion that either Mr. Frick or his competitors are selling coke for e fun of the thing.

COMPARATIVE SUPERSTITIONS.

It is instructive to learn that the work of railway construction in China has been stopped short; and it is still more instructive to observe that the press of the United States it turning up its nose at the Chinese superstition. It seems that there was a fire in the Imperial Palace at Peking; and instead of laying the blame on defective fines careless. ly thrown away matches, or spontaneous combustion, it was found out that this was a warning against the devices of the foreign devils. The astrologers of the Imperial Court, to the total of seventy-eight, held a meeting and pronounced that the only significance of the conflagration was as an omen against these inventions of the Evil One. So the Son of Heaven issued his imperial decree and the work on the Tientsin Railroad was cut off in its youth.

This sounds very superstitious and seems

make merry over; but it is not. For, if we will stop to think a moment just the same thing has taken place in this country. Our wise men, the "trained experts" of the railway business, who were announced a few years ago to be so full of the important secrets of that craft, that no one else was not elevate the latter form of Government qualified to say anything against railway discriminations, and who have since represented themselves as either so foolish or so cords in that of Germany, and finally this knavish that they will wreck the property disgraceful tragedy now occupying atten- of the stockholders if they are left to their own devices, have just been holding a meeting. They discussed gravely what ailed the railway empire, and came to exactly the same conclusion as the Chinese experts. They had been violating the law, and injuring their stockholders, all to drive each other into pools, of which each desired to dictate the terms; but the only omen they could perceive, was that it was all the fault of building too many railroads. The imperial decree has gone forth, abrogating constitutions and ignoring Supreme Court injunctions, to exactly the same effect as in

China, that no more roads shall be built. The legitimate interests which wish to build their roads may decay, and the manufactories which would be employed in furnishing them supplies may stand idle; but no more roads must be built for fear of making things too hot among the imperial palaces whence the rescripts are issued.

Really, between Chins, clinging to her old superstitions, and the United States abandoning its constitutional principles in obedience to the superstitions of the corporation cult, it is hard to see how the United States has much reason for turning up its nose at China.

THERE is no doubt a good deal of money in the Cabinet slate as announced. But would it not be discreet for the organs of Whitney, Scott, Payne, Vilas and Don Dickinson to be a little less vociferous in raising shouts of horror over the fact.

THE old discussion about the effect of drinking on longevity has just been decided zation crops out in spots. The latest dem- in Paris, adversely to the drinkers. M. Chevreul, the famous centenarian, attributed his long life, partially at least, to his total a translation of Shakespeare's plays into the abstinence from intoxicants. Against this Chinese language shall be made for the ben- | Father Christmas, a Parisian mendicant, efit of the heir to the throne. It would have used to argue with the man of science that been wiser if Her Royal and Celestial High. he, the beggar, was nearly as old as M.

every conceivable opportunity, he thought that intoxication made his life longer as well as livelier. But Father Christmas destroyed his own argument by getting drunk, falling down stairs and breaking his head. This leaves no question as between these

two examples that total abstinence is most conducive to long life.

THE Legislature seems to be disposed to scotch, if not kill, snakes by squelching all the bills in which any serpentine qualities appear. Hereafter the Allegheny members will do wisely to read their bills before introducing them.

THE appointment of Mr. John D. Bailey, s agent and collector for the Eighteenth Regiment armory fund, as where, indicates progress and an early com-Regiment armory fund, as announced elseor that purpose. This creditable military organization has formulated its plans thoroughly for the location of its permanent headquarters and has made considerable progress in securing pledges toward the fund. Mr. Bailey as solicitor and collector will give the business men of the city an early opportunity to furnish substantial aid for this deserving project,

THE intelligence that "the Hon." William T. Cavanaugh, of Kansas, has been arrested for attempting to blackmail the State printer out of \$600, affords a striking commentary on the value of that political prefix.

THE statement that the son of Secretary Endicott has lost his heart is coupled with the announcement that another Cabinet wedding may soon be expected. If that is the result, it ought to follow that the rest of the term of the present administration should be employed in marrying off the State Department. It lost its heart when Germany commenced to show her teeth in the Samoan business.

If the gentle groundhog sees his shadow in West Virginia to-day, it may be that they can find out in that State, after six weeks more have elapsed, who has carried the election. THE article on railway rate wars and the

ong-and-short-haul clause sets forth in eztenso what THE DISPATCH has been urging for years, that the provisions of the Inter-State Commerce law furnish the most legitimate safeguard against reckless rate cutting. Let that law be honestly enforced and obeyed, and the prevailing howl about the loss to the railways from that enactment will be

Now it is said that Alger is in doubt whether he will accept a Cabinet position. This will make a great deal more doubt whether he has been offered one.

THE West Virginia Legislature may be anable to agree upon such little measures as deciding who is elected Governor and United States Senator; but a bill before it requiring the railways to furnish free passes to all the members, indicates the practical agreement among them that they all want their deadhead privileges.

ARKANSAS seems to improve on the Mississippi plan. Killing off Republican candidates is calculated to discourage inconvenient contests.

THE report that the Geffcken incident has practically ceased to be talked about in Berlin indicates that the Germans make haste to forget the acts of aggression committed by their ruling powers almost as speedily as the Americans do those which are indulged in by their rulers, the corpora-

Possibly if Secretary Bayard should see his shadow to-day he would crawl into his

SECRETARY BAYARD'S plea that the Senate has belittled the foreign policy of the administration might answer in some cases; but it can hardly apply with regard to the alleged diplomacy which Mr. Bayard has used. There are some eggs of such character that it is impossible to spoil them.

ARE we at least brought face to face with the delightful possibility of an ice crop?

PERSONAL FACTS AND FANCIES.

ELLEN TERRY wears Mrs. Siddons' shoes when she plays Lady Macbeth. A GLASGOW paper says: One of the persons worst hit by the Panama collapse is an American girl who some years ago married a French Count. Being an enthusiastic admirer of M. de Lesseps she invested all her movey in canal stock. Her handsome furs and wraps are not for sale by a well-known coiffeur in the Champs Elysee.

Von Bulow was walking one day in Berlin, when he met a man with whom he had for whose acquaintance he was desirous of dropping. The quondam friend at once accosted him. "How do you do, Von Bulow? delighted to see you! Now I'll bet that you don't remember my name!" "You've won that bet." replied Von Bulow, and turning on his heel he walked off in the opposite direction.

It seems that the recent prolonged visit of the Emperor of Brazil to Europe has acted as a good advertisement for the great Empire over which he rules. The number of emigrants who have disembarked at Rio since Dor Pedro's return to his own country has been unprecedentedly large. The total number of emigrants reaching Brazil during the last 12 months was 136,000. Dom Pedro has done a great deal to encourage this influx of Europeans and is much pleased at the result of his

efforts. JONATHAN ALEXANDER, the old Waterloo pensioner who died in Edinburg a week or two ago, was one of the guards of the fallen Em-peror in St. Helena, and used to tell a curious story of Napoleon's heart having been nearly carried off by a rat after the post mortem ex-amination. The surgeon who conducted the nvestigation, after placing the heart in an open class vessel, happened to fall asleep. During the snooze the choice morsel was lighted upor by a rat, which was in the act of carrying it off the doctor fortunately awoke, and recovered the stolen treasure.

It is now settled that the Shah of Persia will pay his long-promised visit to Europe in the spring. A suite of rooms has been secured for him in Paris from the 24th of May, so that his visit to St. Petersburg will probably terminate shortly before that date. As at present arranged the Shah has promised Sir Henry Drummond Wolff to pay a visit to London, and if this engagement is kept he will be in En-gland about the middle of June. He then intends to go to the Riviera, and he may pay his respects to the Sultan at Stamboul. In any case he will return to Persia by way of Armenia and the Cancasus.

Keely and the Law.

From the Philadelphia Press.] The Supreme Court is quite right in holding that Inventor Keely was blameless of contempt in falling to explain his alleged motor. The laws of Pennsylvania do not require men to perform impossibilities or parade absurd

Right, But Oughtn't to Say So Loudly.

From the New York World. 1 Secretary Bayard seems to incline to the be-lief that the United States Government is in the right in the Samoan matter, but ought not to say so very londly. Diplomats Not Warriors From the New York Sun. 1

The tendency toward pugilism at West Point should not be encouraged. The Military Academy is maintained for turning out warners,

THE TOPICAL TALKER

Pigs in Human Shape-A Peculiar Exclamation-With or Without a Nose. Some people want a dollar's worth for a dol

ar, and not a few want a dollar and a haif's worth.

The latter class shine at table d'hote dinners. and the like. They tell a story of two drum-mers on the Chicago Limited, which illustrates the class well. You know they give a capital dinner on the Limited for a dollar—and it is hard to see how the Pullman people make any

profit out of it.

The two drummers sat down to dinner, and one of them began to eat a bit of bread whereupon the other remonstrated, saying: "What are you asting bread for? That costs next to nothing. Why don't you do as I do," and the porcine speaker grabbed a bottle of olives. "The olives cost a dollar a bottle, and I get my oney's worth every time."

THERE are really a great many pigs about in They are not merely gormandizers or greedy wretches. The piggish traits are veneered with refinement. This was the case the other day at a pleasant little gathering. A young woman of charming address and sympathetic nature was reading aloud to us Tennyson's "Princess." We were enjoying the smooth musical verse immensely, but the whispering of a certain middle-aged matron annoyed us somewhat. At last the whispering grew so loud that I could plainly hear that terrible woman saying to her neighbor: "Three pounds of beef boiled, one pound of suet, one pound of raisins, one pound of currants, quarter of a pound of citron, four large apples, pint boiled cider, and spices to taste—that's my grand-mother's recipe and I never ate such mince-

meat as she used to make." Well, we all burst out laughing at this, and the reading of "The Princess" was discontinued. Only a pig could think of the compounding of pies when Tennyson's poetry was being read aloud.

THIS subject of pigs in human shape reminds me of a strange fashion a woman I once knew had of expressing any intense emotion she felt. Early in our acquaintance I remember how she surprised me when I reached the end of a description of a sight on board a herring smack British Channel; and she said with what seemed to me a thorough air of conviction:

"Oh, you pig!"
I suppose I looked so surprised that she apprehended her exclamation had jarred my nerves, and she explained that she always ejaculated, "Oh, you pig!" in moments when she was moved to joy or other grateful feeling. There was nothing personal in the exclamation at all, she assured me.

Afterward I found that this queer little

formula always came to her lips at the times

The new Pittsburg postoffice is making such remarkable progress that the Democrats who are going out of office feel confident that it will be ready for them when they return to power, say 20 years hence.

But seriously, the building is several feet higher than it was a year ago, when Reformer Freret told an aching public to lie still and see

what he would do. In the course of a noctural meandering a highly respectable Pittsburger collided with some hard object, a fist, lamp post, wall or pavement, and so marred the outline and ap-pearance of his nasal organ that he did not go to his office that morning, but sent for a doctor. The doctor dressed the wounded organ and as preparing to leave the house, when the owner of the nose inquired: "Doctor, how on earth am I to go out with this nose?"

"I don't see how you can go out without it, my dear sir," was the doctor's unfeeling reply. By the by will prohibition, if it comes, reduce the number of mysterious accidents many of our truly good citizens tell us about when they saunter down Fifth avenue with a strip of plaster on the chin or a halo of black under a bloodshot eye?

HOW THEY ENTERTAINED.

Sharpsburg Annual Supper and Bazan and Other Social Events.

Few pleasanter annual suppers and bazaars have been given in this section than the one under the management of the ladies of the Sharpsburg Presbyterian Church last evening The church was beautifully decorated with corn in ear, immense bunches of corn stalks and tassels, a bank of cornmeal occupies a prominent place in the Hall. Yellow bunting and decorations of the same hue ornamented the various booths. The supper tables were covered with vallow tables clarks and vallow raphing with yellow table cloths and yellow napkins were supplied, while the guests partook of different preparations of the malze, waited upon by yellow-garbed damsels.

The Hays Reception.

A largely attended and in every way enjoya ble reception was given last evening by Mrs. Richard Hays, of Ridge avenue, Allegi onor of her neice, Miss Carrie Hays. From 8 to ll the numerous guests enjoyed themselves in the beautifully decorated parlers, and the reception proved to be a success in the richest meaning of the term. Then, until the early morning hours, a few specially invited young people danced the german and witnessed the bestowal of the finest favors of the season.

Corinthian Lodge Bauquet. Corinthian Lodge, No. 578, F. & A. M., cele

brated the first anniversary of the adoption of its constitution by a banquet at Bennett Opera House, Milivale last evening. The affair was under the supervision of the lady friends of the lodge, and nothing was lacking to add enjoyment to the occasion. Ludwig & Richter furnished the floral decorations.

The Shields Reception.

The third of their series of charming assemblies was given last evening by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Shields, at their pleasant home in Edgeworth. Like the others, it was all that could be desired, either on the party of the entertainers or the entertained.

An Edgewood German. One of the most delightful germans of the season was given by Mrs. Love in her Edgewood home last evening. The company of guests, though not very large, could hardly have been move congenial, nor could they have been better entertained.

A Very Ancient Subject.

The members of the Junta Club will assemble for their next meeting on next Tuesday at the residence of Mr. H. C. Brigham, Fifth avenue, East End, to discuss the subject of "Ancient Rome." A full representation of the members is expected.

A Successful Second Night. The second night of the entertainment at the Fifth U. P. Church proved quite as enjoyable as the first, though the programme was entirely different. The music was all of a popular class,

and was well rendered. An Enjoyable German. Gernert & Guenther furnished the music for the enjoyable german in the parlors of the

BACKING A BUCKWHEAT.

Slack Davis residence last evening. It was one of those bright little spots in life which people like to remember.

A Pancake Porcine in Meadville Auxious to Meet the Champion.

pecial Telegram to the Dispatch. MEADVILLE, February L-If H. H. Bissel of Youngstown, fails to accept the \$500 chal-lenge of G. A. Staff, of San Francisco, to a buckwheat pancake eating contest, it is alto-gether likely the challenge will be snapped up in this city. Nypano Engineer William New berry says he knows a man right here in Mead-ville who can mow away more buck wheat cakes in the same length of time than some whole families, and he doesn't propose that the Pa-cific slope is going to walk off with any glory that properly belongs to this locality.

Mr. Newberry recently attended a banquet where the gentleman referred to was present, and stands ready to back his friend against anything or anybody.

Is our Government becoming a "Circumlocu-tion Office, or How Not to Do It?" The Naval

Department wants to know what the State De-partment thinks about the Samoan affair, the

State Department would like to learn the

views of the President in the matter, while the

President shows an inclination to hear from

Congress on the subject. Congress would

stands in the premises, and public opinion might like to consult the Samoans before feel-

ess be glad to find out how public opinion

From the New York World.]

Our Position in the Samoan Affair.

A City in a Peck of Trouble

(NEW YORK BUREAU SPECIALS,) NEW YORK, February 1.—Long Island City is again in trouble with its City Government. No sooner had its fighting Mayor, Pat Gleason, quit smashing the buildings of the Long Island Railway, than the School Board got into a WASHINGTON, Pebruary L-For nearly 50 years the city of Alexandria and Alexandria county, in Virginia, were included in the District of Columbia. They and portions of Maryland which are yet in the District were ceded by the two States. Neither Washington nor cities in those days, but the latter was far ahead of the former in material prospects. The river was the great highway. Fleets of ships were always at the wharves of Alexan-dria, and vast quantities of wheat and tobacco were brought by wagon from as far as 100 miles inland to the vessels which piled on the Poto-

As the steamship Belgenland was coming up to her dock, this afternoon, a steward found

cession of the city and county to the State of Virginia, believing that with their own government they could better provide for the ernment they could better provide for the city's wints and promote its prosperity. It is claimed on the other hand that it was purely a movement of politicians who wanted offices which they could not get under the District Government. The constitutionality of the re-cession was disputed, and no less a figure than Jefferson Davis ranged himself, with many others of note, against the proposed change. R. M. T. Hunter, afterward notorious in the this morning until the revenue officials boarded the ship at qurantine. He then became ex-ceedingly nervous, watching with apparent ap-prehension every man who came aboard. A few minutes later he went below and hanged War of the Rebellion, and James M. Mason, who owned a great estate in the county, is-bored so hard for the recession that they achimself. Papers in his pockets show only that he lived in Hamburg.

complished their purpose, and the bill went through Congress. The question was left to a vote of the citizens. The city went almost unanimously for the recession, while the rural ast night came very near being no longer : vote was quite as unanimously against, but the resident of this sphere. Revival meetings are farmer being the most populous, the matter was decided for the recession. being held in the church daily. They seem to have had no effect on John, for he got drunk and after the meeting was over last night he entered the church, and opening 60 gas gets, Years passed, and Alexandria retrograded rather than progressed. Washington began to grow apace. Railroads tapped the capital, and that became the depot for freight. The war ttempted to illuminate the place. He was to deeply overcome with whisky to make it a suc-cess, and the flow of the gas soon knocked him out. He fell down in a pew, and the condition came, and, while Washington was a great cen-ter of activity and supplies, Alexandria's commerce was cut off. Business houses were emptied, streets were neglected and grass grown, and the populace were too poor to make needed improvements. Of late years great changes have taken place for the better in the the doors to open. A trustee finally got in the church and the sexton was removed to the old city, but she still limps instead of leaping

along.

Many leading citizens are of the opinion now to be once more taken into the bosom of the District, and they are taking steps to induce Preparations for the big inaugural ball grow action on the part of Congress to restore the spiring, patriotic memories. Whether they can ever accomplish their purpose is doubtful, but it is an interesting question. E. W. L.

OUR MAIL POUCH.

WANTS TO GET BACK.

Alexandria Would Like to be Again In

cluded in the District of Columbia-So

of the find Results of Secession.

Alexandria were particularly busine

In 1846 the citizens of Alexandria took fina

action in a movement which had been under discussion for some years, to secure the re-

ecial Telegram to The Dispatch.

What is Wrong With That Suit ? o the Editor of The Dispatch:

The business men of Pittsburg are feeling seeply interested in the suit of the State of Pennsylvania vs the Western Union Telegraph Company. The subposnas in the suit were re-turnable January 29. You published the fact that the defendant company entered an appear ance on January 28, but we fail to find any ac ance on January 28, but we fail to find any account of what was done on the 28th. Wasn't there any action taken on that day? Before the consolidation of the Western Union and Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Companies we were sending 20-word messages from Pittsburg to Philadelphia, New York and Boston for 20 cents, with a rebate of 30 per cent, which made the net cost 14 cents for 20 words. Now, in the absence of competition we pay for 20 words to the net cost 14 cents for 20 words. Now, in the absence of competition, we pay for 20 words to Boston 55 cents, and to New York and Philadelphia 45 cents, an advance of 400 per cent to Boston and over 300 per cent to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, etc., etc., and yet President Green told the committee of the United States Senate that there had been no advance in rates since the "arrangement" with the Baltimore and Ohio, but on the contrary there was considerable decrease, and pointed to the fact that there had been a reduction in rates between certain points—Oshkosh and

to the fact that there had been a reduction in rates between certain points—Oshkosh and Kalamazoo, perhaps.

There is practically no competition in the telegraph business in this country at present, and our people desire the protection the law gives them from the grasping monopolies, this telegraph one especially, and expect THE DISPATCH to keep the matter before the people. Agitate. Yours, very respectfully, W. J. R.

A Prohibitionist Makes a Correction To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Will you kindly correct an error in your corespondent's article from Oil City, as to the position of the W. C. T. U. of Venango county and the Prohibition party. There is no antagonism. The W. C. T. U. of Venango county and third party men have not had one word of and third party men have not had one word of dispute in the three years in which I have been their President. Your correspondent was mistaken. Mrs. Hulings is not and never was President of Venango County W. C. T. U. The Prohibitionists hope all hands, Prohibitionist, Republican and Democrat as well, will join to pass the amendment. The Venanago County W. C. T. U. will work as a unit for their cause, and if any discussions as to leadership arise will be willing to waive all claims, remembering that it was the true mother who before Solomon was willing to give up her child to Solomon was willing to give up her child to save it, while the false one would either rule or ruin. Mrs. D. H. BOULTON, President Venango County W. C. T. U.

We Give it Up.

To the Editor of the Dispatch: Referring to the effort of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to recover some of its for-mer travel, as explained in this morning's Dis-PATCH, can you tell what difference it makes to a railroad company, having once gotten the money for a "round trip" ticket, whether the party returns next day or next year?

Y. PITTSBURG, February 1.

Forming a Beneficial Society.

To the Editor of the Dispatch: Will you be kind enough to tell us whether we can carry on an association for our mutual benefit without a charter? A WORKMAN. fit would be to your interest to have a charter or to form a joint stock company.]

FLORENCE IMPROVED.

Tearing Down Famous Old Buildings Make Room for New Ones. Between the gentleman who goes to Florence for health and the lady who goes to it for emo-tions, says the London Globe, that city is in a

distracted state of uncertain reform. "Ouida's" complaint in to-day's Times reflects the feeling of the latter folk; while in the next number of the same paper may come complaints of defective ventilation, drains and that sort of thing. Scent and sentiment have often gon together; and you cannot purge your city of all its dirty little corners without doing some damages to possibly sacred antiquity. Still these necessities of reform are very different from the wholesale "improvements" which "Ouida" says are going to be carried out in the

very center of Florence, and against which she protests with that glowing wealth of language for which her pen is renowned.

The catalogue of doomed buildings is a long one; One ancient tower; several residences of various Arte; a house with towers; a house without towers; two noble palaces; various other palaces (ordinary), a fourteenth century palace, one column, groups, etc. Most of the buildings are not very famous beyond Flor-ence; but one-the column of Sania Trinita, both in itself and in the circumstances of its erect on—is of much historic interest. And what is to take the place of these picturesque buildings? "A gigantic encumber frame and a had imitation of Trafalger Square." For Florence has a Giunta as Rome has, and the Giunta has a favorite engineer called Corsi. It is Corsi who has designed this great work of destruction. It seems there is a prevailing notion in Florence that if they can only get the electric light and more transways the Queen of England will pay the town another visit. Hence these "improvements," with the general spirit of which every lover of Florence must feel dissatisfied.

They Don't Know What They've Missed. MARTINSVILLE, IND., February 1 .- Among the peculiar personal freaks of forbearan from eating hereabout are the following: Mrs. Ben Dessauer, of this city, has never tasted an apple in any way. Milton Hadley, of Mooresville, this county, aged 50 years, has never eaten an egg, and James Hickman, Sr., an aged gentleman living near here, has never partaken of

A HAPPY THOUGHT.

We often hear some people say 'They'll never cross the ocean, Until a bridge is built that way.'
Oh! what a foolish notion.

You silly people who're afraid, And think you're quite unable To make the trip on board a ship, Why don't you take the cable.

LIFE IN THE METROPOLIS.

tangle which culminated yesterday in a knock-lown fight between two members in the Maydown ngnt between two members in the Mayor's office. To-day the employes of the water
department gave notice that unless they received their December salaries before to-morrow noon they would shut off the city's water
supply. This announcement has created a
panic among the citizens. They are trying to
subscribe account money this evening to keen subscribe enough money this evening, to keep the officials of the water department in good humor, while the other officials try to replenish he city's empty treasury.

Afraid of His Own Shadow.

to her dock, his atternoon, a steward loand the dead body of August Dagman dangling from the celling of a dark room in the steer-age. Dagman was a first cabin passenger. His behavior during the voyage was so peculiar nenavior during the voyage was so peculiar that his fellow-passengers suspected him of being a fugitive from justice. He was on deck

Nearly Settled the Sexton. John Buckalew is no longer sexton of the Methodist Church, of New Brunswick. John

of affairs was not discovered until time for service this morning, when 400 people were assembled in front of the church waiting for chapel. He was nearly unconscious and the church was filled with gas. He was discharged. A Snap for the Florists.

apace. A Brooklyn florist has completed a big floral chair costing \$400. It is made of scarlet

Upon the panels in the back of the chair are purple immortelies fashioned in script into the names "Harrison," "Morton." Many other floral pieces, quite as elaborate, are being constructed. Each department of the Exdevice—the Department of the Treasury by a huge floral safe, six feet each way; the Department of the Interior by a plow and several heafs of wheat, and the Navy by a floral Dolphin (the dispatch boat). All the decorations will cost about \$15,000.

Keeping Herself Remembered.

Mrs. Lillian Scofield, notorious for her con-nection with the Hatch-Scofield tragedy, is again under the surveillance of the police. She refuses to leave her flat up town at her landlord's request, and threatens to shoot the jani-tor in case he tries to eject her. Night before register pipe because her room was overheated. When the janitor objected, she told him she "would put him where she put Nat Hatch if he didn't shut up." She keeps open house to Brother-in-law Ferris, also a prominent figure in the Hatch sensation, and to any number of clubmen. Her doors are closed, however, to Mr. Scoffeld. Her trouble with her landlord and janitor was caused by their refusal to give her a night key. Her landlord proposes to have

DEMANDING RESTITUTION.

The Peruvian Government Called on Apologize for Alleged Indignities,

WASHINGTON, February 1 .- A renewed effort is being made by the Secretary of State to secure a settlement of the claim of Mr. Victor H. McCord, an American citizen, against the Peruvian Government, for damages to person and property sustained in that country in the year 1885. Mr. McCord was arrested and subrelease from imprisonment only upon the payment of \$10,000 ransom. The case has been pending in the State Department since the year mentioned, and has been the subject of considerable correspondence. The claim is disputed on the general ground that McCord gave aid on the general ground that McCord gave aid and encouragement to the rebellion, and was a proper subject for imprisonment. This is, however, emphatically denied by McCord.

Mr. Buck, the United States Minister at Lima, has recently made a vigorous presentation of the case to the Peruvian authorities, and intimates that there is a prespect of a satisfactory adjustment. Action in the case has been very much impeded by reason of the recent unsettled state of affairs in Peru.

THE INDIANS' LEARNING.

Satisfactory Report on Their Education by the Board of Commissioners. WASHINGTON, February 1.-The Board of Indian Commissioners, in their annual report, complain of numerous grants of right of way to railroads through Indian lands, and other leg islation in which the benefits to be derived by the whites have been the first consideration while legislation purely in the interests of the Indians seems difficult of enactment. They ask that the appropriation for educa-ional work among the Indians be increased to tional work among the Indians be increased to \$2,000,000 for the first year, \$3,000,000 for the second and \$4,000,000 for the third year. Education among the Indians is stated to be making substantial progress.

TRANSATLANTIC NOTES.

ALL the slow-going British gunboats on foreign service are to be brought home and de-voted to coast defenses and their former duties assigned to new vessels of greater speed and more powerful armaments.

AT a typewriting contest in London a month ago there were 126 entries and nearly all appeared. The first prize was for 79 words a minute, 20 or 30 words less than have been achieved in this country. THE production of the coca plant in South

America is so enormous that one-eighteenth part of it would be sufficient to swamp the markets of the outside world. Almost all of it consumed in South America. THE returns of 1888 show that France imported manufactures to the value of 445,000,000 francs, against 440,000,000 francs in 1887, and ex-

ported 1,656,000,000 francs worth of exports against 1,677,000,000 the year before. A LONDON cabman was arrested for extessive cruelty to his horse by whipping. Upon consenting to give cvidence against the cab owner from whom he hired the horse, he himself was discharged and the owner was sent to

How the prices for musical performances have risen during the last 60 years can be seen from a comparison of Patti's £700 for performace in London this season and Mme. Pas ta's 200 francs for a private musical entertainment in Paris in 1830. EFFCURES with whom Chartreuse is a favor-

ite liquor, should consider the advice of a

monk given recently to a visitor: "You want

to drink good Chartreuse? I will give you the

recipe-two-thirds vellow and one-third green in the same glass. You will thank me for the THE holy city of Tunis, Kairwan, can now be entered by Christians, and its mosques can be visited. The great mosque has 505 columns of marble of every conceivable color and of every

variety of architecture, and is, perhaps, the

ext in beauty to the great mosque in Cordova. THE new Paris hats are to have crowns so low as to be hardly perceptible from the front view. It is thought also that since the bustle disappeared from the body the chignon of some years ago will again fasten itself to the head. Already great rolls of hair are to be seen at the

PRINCE BISMARCK has been a most profitable dealer in wood, which his estates furnish in vast abundance, on account of the special rates granted to him by the railroads. other German woodcutters have at last struck against this favoritism, and the Prince will now have to compete on equal terms.

CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

A horse at Canajoharie, N. Y., was frightened to death the other day by the noise of a locomotive. -A mother and son, aged 99 and 79 years

respectively, are inmates of a charitable insti-stitution at Brighton Beach.

-A large order for canoes, to be sent to England, has just been received by a boat building firm at Passdumkeag, Me.

-There is a negro man in Athens, Ga., by the name of Cato Baldwin, who has made and saved \$1,500 by playing on an old fiddle at dances. He has bought a house and lot with the money.

-A negro boy near Camden, S. C., lost a dollar that belonged to his mother. He felt so hadly about it that he began crying bitterly, and did not stop for 24 hours, and then he died rom exhaustion.

-A fearful epidemic of diphtheria is reported from the town of Nago, in Hungary. Children have been dying at the rate of 20 a day. All the schools were closed, and a panic occurred among the inhabitants. -At Brussels an elephant attached to &

circus, becoming enraged at an attendant, seized him by the leg and dashed him against a wall. Death was instantaneous. The unfortanate man had been teasing the animal. -The mild weather of December and the first half of this month had its effects on the maples of New England. In Maine and Vermont and other sections trees yielded a good flow of sap, and sugar was made in midwinter, a very unusual occurrence.

-An African trader has so trained s young gorilla that it follows him around like a dog. It recently accompanied him on a tramp of 20 miles. The animal does numerous tricks, and it is so docile that its master doesn't hestate to allow it to sleep with him.

-Wild geese are flying about Eastern Connecticut. A big flock passed over East Killingly a few days ago, and, later, flocks were seen at points on the coast. What bearing the flight of wild geese in January may have on the weather is unknown, as no such thing, it is stated, was ever recorded before in Connecti--A new remedy for skin diseases, says

the Hospital, is a continual bath, the patient eating, drinking and sleeping there until cured. one patient has been kept in such a bath for 3% days. He is tied up always at night to prevent him from slipping so as to be drowned. The palms and soles become much shriveled, but the rest of the skin is unchanged. The water is kept at 98°. -Frank Sargeant, skating on Lake Mas-

coma, N. H., broke through the ice. John Greeley went to his aid with a plank, and Sar-Greeley went to his aid with a plank, and Sar-geant grabbed it. Will Aldrich came to the aid of Greeley, and while they were pulling Sargeant out the ice broke again and all three went down into the water. Then Mary B. Gree-ley ran to their help, and hided by her father, who followed, got the young men out safely. -A mortar mixer at a new hotel in Portland, Ore,, was observed to be heating his ket-

tle of coffee yesterday in a way which was no novelty to him, but seemed strange to a reporter. He dug a hole in a pile of sand, placed a lump of lime in it, sprinkled some water on the lime, placed his kettle on it and banked sand up around it. When 12 o'clock struck he shouted: "Come to tea; your coffe's a bilin'." -A London physician is of opinion that turpentine bath is good for rheumatism, gout, insomnia, laryngitis and bronchitis, and recommends the following method of preparing it: Make a saturated solution of six ounces of

Make a saturated solution of six ounces of yellow soap and add to it three or four ounces of oil of turpentine. Shake well and then put it into the bath, which should be filled with warm water. After 15 minutes' immersion the patient should be put to bed. -Charlton Fletcher, of Hinesville, Ga., has a novel basin, which is the admiration of all who visit him. The water shelf is a huge block of solid pine, and in it is scooped out a basin near the water bucket with a hole in the bottom, in which is a stopper of black-gum root. This basin is smooth and clean, and the water shelf, supported by large pillars, stands under the shadow of a large oak and is a very inviting place. He says there is no danger of his basin being carried off or broken.

-Six well-known Brunswick, Ga., voung ladies have organized themselves into an "Old Maid Club." The young ladies, it is said, have mutually pledged each other never to marry or become engaged unless the consent of every member of the club is 2rst obtained, in which member of the cind is arst obtained, in which case the consenting members are to act as bridesmaids, and each of them present the bride with a handsome present. One of the members is already nonplussed. Having had the question popped by her fellow, and being unable to get unanimous consent for the ceremony, she is now waiting for the dissenting members to meet their "fates," when she feels that they will relent.

-In the little city of Geneva, Ga., a certain merchant employed as a clerk a good, clever farmer's boy, who knew very little about different articles of merchandise and who had always greased his wagon with fresh tar. One day the merchant sent the new clerk into a side room where he kept groceries to attend to some matters there, and not seeing him again for some time he went in to see about him. He found time he went in to see about him. He found him eating something with apparent relists and asked what he was doing. The clerk replied "I have found a whole lot of little cheeses and they are mighty good with crackers." The merchant proceeded to investigate and was perfectly thunderstruck to find that the boy had eaten nearly a half box of axis grease, thinking it was cheese.

-The economical reforms in the Queen's household to which it is said the Prince of Wales has been decidedly opposed, have revealed a couple of queer facts. The custom has been to present Epiphany offerings of "gold, frankincense and myrrh" on behalf of the sovereign at the altar of the Chapel Royal the sovereign at the altar of the Chapel Royal of St. James' Palace. The offering was supposed to consist of 50 sovereigns, until Prince Albert, who had a keen scent for abuses, once went to the vestry before the services and opened the box, where he found ten shillings only. It was explained that an old habit gave the rest of the money to certain officials and perquisites. Another queer custom appropriated at the beginning of each year 52 bottles of royal Maderia, whereby the officiating clergy at St. James' were supposed to regate themselves each Sunday after morning service. Yet none of the clergy had ever seen a drop of it.

MEANT TO BE FUNNY.

She Was Hateful .- Miss Lovelorn-That young DeGarry never knows what he is doing.

Miss Caustic--Quite true. He's just confesses to me that he kissed you last night .-- New York

Rather Cruel.-Miss Lovelorn-Mr. De

Jinks asked me my age last night, the rude fel-low. I just told him I was as old as I looked. Miss Caustic-You shouldn't have been so frank, -New York Evening Sun. The Joke Writer's Sweetheart .- Augus-

tns-What are you going to do with those letters of yours that girl returned? Julius-Pick out the ones that are not too much oiled and send them to my next charmer .-- New Pigeon English Unnecessary .- Custome (who has left his bundle of washing and received a check from the Chinaman in exchange)-Li-tee

nam-ee on-ee back-ee. Wun Lung-It's not at all necessary. Bring the eccipt on your return .- Kaneas Cit Au Naturel.-Young lady (in hair store) -Dark brown switches, please. Saleswoman—Human hair, of course?

Young lady-Certainly. Young lady—With or without? Young lady—With or without what? Saleswoman—Dandruff.—Epoch. Cause for Anxiety .- Mrs. Dolliver-Oh, window, and I saw it light on an elderly man.

Mr. Dolliver (turning pale) - Great Scott, Jane, you don't know what damage you may have Mrs. Dolliver (in tears)-Yes, I do. It's pure china, and can't be replaced for less than go. Oh, what shall I do?-Harper's Basar.

Woman's Ignorance.-Wife-If you want get an office why do you spend all your time in Husband-The office should seek the man, you

know, my dear. Wife-Huh! I never heard of office seeking men Husband (contemptuously)—The shows all you know about politics.—Philadelphia Record. Rules Must be Obered .- "No dogs allowed on the car, if you please," said the con-ductor, as the man was followed up the steps by

'Is that the rule? "Yery well. I'my dog can't ride, then I won't.
He is as good as I am." "Don't dosof it, sir; but that is the rule."-De-troff Free Press.

Goods Appropriate for the Season .-"West how is business on the road?" asked one conmercial traveler of another. "I find it very good." "And I find ;t very bad."

"What is your line?"
"Slegh bells, skates and snow shovels."
"That accounts for it. I'm carrying linen dusters, ice cream freezers and sods fountains this seeson. -- Hartford Post.